NOVEMBER 25.

Rev. H. C. McCOOK, D. D., Vice-President, in the chair.

Forty-one persons present.

Embryology of Fulgur, etc.—Mr. JOHN FORD reported the finding of capsules of *Fulgur carica*, containing living embryos, near South Atlantic City, on November 16, 1884.

As he had already secured live specimens in December, 1883, and in each of the six months following, this would prove the deposition of capsules by the species mentioned during the largest part of the year, instead of in the spring months only, as was formerly supposed. Living embryos of *F. canaliculata* were also obtained monthly, during the same period.

About one-half of the original amount of albumen in those found on the 16th, had been utilized by the young mollusks; a somewhat reasonable indication that they were near the middle stage of embryotic growth.

In further support of this probability, it was noticed that the delicate cilia which characterize the animal in its earlier stages, were much shortened, and the shells less transparent.

On the other hand, the thin circular membranes upon the edges of the capsules, through which the matured embryos finally escape, were still unbroken, and in much the same condition as when first exposed; thus proving that the young mollusks were as yet unprepared for a new stage of existence.

Several other strings of capsules, including some of *F. canaliculata*, were secured on the same occasion, but exposure to the sun for a day or two, had killed the embryos.

At the same locality were discovered two species of living Pholades, *P. crispata* Linn. and *P. truncata* Say, also a fine colony of living *Littorina irrorata* Say; all of these species being new, it is believed, to that part of the coast.

It is probable that the billet of wood in which the Pholades were found, had drifted from some distant locality, as there do not appear to be any conditions favorable to their existence between Brigantine Inlet and Great Egg Harbor Bay.

In regard to the habitat of the Littorina there could be no doubt whatever, as they were present in large numbers, and in a flourishing condition, although dwelling literally upon the sand, instead of on broken rock or pieces of timber, where the species is usually found. It is southern in distribution, rarely occurring north of the mouth of Chesapeake Bay.

An Unfamiliar Rhizopod.—Mr. EDW. POTTS remarked that he had observed, upon a scale of mica schist about one square inch in surface, clipped from a stone picked up near the eastern margin

of the Schuylkill River above the Spring Garden Water Works, Philadelphia, a dozen or more rhizopods of varying sizes, apparently quite motionless, and, by direct illumination, resembling the familiar forms of *Actinophrys* or *Actinosphærium*.

When removed to a compressorium and examined by transmitted light, however, entirely different characteristics were discovered. An outer surface or test was composed of infinite numbers of minute, smooth, curved spicules, gathered somewhat irregularly into radial, acuminate, conical groups, giving to the mass very nearly the appearance of the seed-balls of the sweet-gum tree, *Liquidamber styraciflua*. Within the cavity of this spicular envelope, was seen a spherical protoplasmic body, perhaps one-third of the diameter of the outer test, composed of a multitude of granuliferous cells and a single non-central nucleus. From this "body," many pseudopodal filaments were thrown out through the interstices amongst the spicules, in direct radial lines, to a distance exceeding the height of the spicular cones. They were not constant, however, and at intervals none could be discovered. To test the character of the spiculæ, one individual was treated with strong nitric acid and afterwards mounted in balsam. The protoplasmic body was of course destroyed, but the spicules remained, showing them to be, in all probability, composed of siliceous material.

The speaker was at first inclined to class this rhizopod with the genus *Acanthocystis*, but further examination convinced him that it was more probably allied to *Raphidiophrys*, and a still further examination of F. E. Schultze's papers on the Rhizopodæ warrants its complete identification with his *Raphidiophrys pallida*. In his recent monograph upon this subject, Professor Leidy has referred to this species his sketch of a single individual likewise collected, some years ago, in the Schuylkill River. These appear to be the only instances in which it has been identified on this continent. Its habit of lying close against a supporting surface, seldom or never freely swimming, easily distinguishes it from other familiar Heliozoans.

Note on the Intelligence of a Cricket parasitised by a Gordius. —Dr. Henry C. McCook said that some remarks upon the habits of the cricket published by him, had called forth an interesting communication from Mrs. C. W. Conger, of Groton, New York, the substance of which is as follows:—

"Some twenty-four years ago, my husband and myself took possession of a large old frame house on a farm which was a homestead for the largest, blackest, and most musical of the cricket kind. Early in the fall, I began to be annoyed by finding one or more hair snakes in the water-pail. Though I knew that there positively was nothing of the kind in the pail when it came in, yet a few minutes or an hour generally provided us with a more or less lively specimen. I had a horror of them, because